**Podcast: Equipping the church for Evangelism**

**Primate: Archbishop Geoff Smith**

There is much talk about evangelism in our churches but in reality, we are not so good at supporting our people in doing evangelism.

*Aim of Hope25:* to equip people to do evangelism by providing training resources that move us beyond the negative stereotypes of the word evangelism eg having something forced upon you, or having all the answers. Our hope is to move into a more natural and wholistic way of sharing our faith.

*Two aspects of evangelism:*

* Sharing our faith – being ready to give an answer for our faith (1 Peter 3:15-17)
* Sharing the faith – knowing what we believe and telling others

Hope25 hopes to empower people to be confident in both of these aspects.

Our Hope for Hope25

* More people will hear about Jesus and come to know him
* People in the church will become better equipped to share our faith and what we believe and become clearer in our purpose as the people of God.
* As part of the post COVID recovery Hope25 has the potential to give us a sense of shared purpose.
* Resources on offer will help parishes make a start
* Parishes who participate will find significant benefits beyond the aim of evangelism. It will provide opportunities to learn and develop, to have a go together and to grow in confidence.

*Some final comments:*

Not to expect the parish minister to make the running on this project necessarily but see it as a whole church activity driven by laity.

Start intentionally praying – for hope25 as a whole and for guidance for each individual parish from the Holy Spirit

Keep it simple, plan a few small events rather than trying to do a huge programme that requires significant planning and effort

*Evangelism* – a natural part of the Christian life, not meant to be a burden or a weight upon us. Looking to the Holy Spirit to empower us.